

App. No. 09/682,059

42. (new) The method in Claim 38 further comprising where said fault tolerance consisting of two parts: detection of faulty system components; and automatic substitution of faulty system components.

43. (new) The method in Claim 38 further comprising where said fault tolerance uses a peer-based means for fault detection, in which the fault-monitoring task is dynamically distributed among all control units in the network.

44. (new) The method in Claim 38 further comprising if one of said control units fails to perform a task or subtask, then that task or subtask is passed to and executed by another interconnected control unit.

45. (new) The method in Claim 38 further comprising said fault tolerance involves virtual control unit replacement by virtue of which: a faulty control unit will be told to suspend operation; said faulty control unit will further be reported as non-operative to the distributed control system; another control unit capable of executing the tasks or subtasks will further request to execute previously assigned tasks to be executed by said faulty control unit; said faulty control unit will further transfer its currently assigned task or subtask to a requesting control unit; and subsequently said requesting control unit will execute said tasks or subtasks.

46. (new) The method in Claim 46 further comprising said security consisting of using a secure communication protocol implementing data encryption and controller authentication means.

**REMARKS - General**

By the above amendment, Applicants have amended the title to emphasize the novelty of the invention.

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Also applicants have rewritten all claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentable over the prior art.

#### Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentable over prior art. Therefore the applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

Applicant would argue that it is not obvious that if one of said control units fails to perform a task or subtask that that or subtask is passed to and executed by another control unit especially at the time of the invention which is pre July, 2001. This is one of the main advantages of the current patent. This process was unique and novel at the time of the invention. There are no references to it. The current invention passing of fails to another control unit is more of a seemly nature flow than anything referenced in Works, U.S. Pat. No. 4,412,281.

The Applicant would also argue that the dynamic rules that develop automatically is unique and non obvious and that are different than those in Yagi U.S. Patent No. 5,528,730.

The current invention offers and accomplishes "virtual redundancy" which the applicant argues is very novel and non obvious and not disclosed in the Trebes, Jr. U.S. Pat No. 6,317,438.

#### Conditional Request For Constructive Assistance

Applicant has amended the specification and claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P § 707.03(d) and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

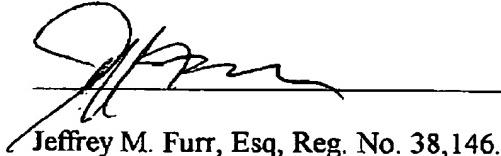
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify I have transmitted this paper by fax to the Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9306 on March 31, 2005.

March 31, 2005.



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